WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method for photoelectrically reading an image on a film and then performing a blemish elimination processing, comprising the steps of:

reading a defective image as information related to a defect on the film;

then, reading photoelectrically said image to obtain an actual image;

performing preprocessing for the blemish elimination processing on said defective image while reading photoelectrically said image; and

performing the blemish elimination processing on a blemish of said actual image, based on the defective image subjected to said preprocessing.

2. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said preprocessing is finished up to completion of obtaining said actual image.

3. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the image on the film is sequentially read on a plane basis, and

wherein said actual image is obtained and the blemish elimination processing is performed on the actual image by using said defective image subjected to said preprocessing.

4. The image processing method according to claim 1,

   wherein said defective image is evaluated to obtain a evaluated result, and

   wherein said preprocessing and said blemish elimination processing are stopped in accordance with said evaluated result.

5. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said preprocessing is edge enhancement processing of the defective image or production of flag information which imparts presence or absence of the defect on a pixel unit basis from the defective image.

6. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said defective image is photoelectrically read by using infrared light.

7. An image processing method for photoelectrically reading an image on a film and then performing a blemish elimination processing, comprising the steps of:

reading a defective image as information related to a defect on the film;

performing preprocessing for the blemish elimination processing on said defective image; and

performing the blemish elimination processing on a blemish of an actual image which is obtained by reading photoelectrically said image, based on the defective image subjected to said preprocessing.

8. The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein said preprocessing is edge enhancement processing of the defective image or production of flag information which imparts presence or absence of the defect on a pixel unit basis from the defective image.

9. The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein said defective image is photoelectrically read by using infrared light.

10. The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein said defective image is evaluated to obtain a evaluated result, and

wherein said preprocessing and said blemish elimination processing are stopped in accordance with said evaluated result.

11. The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein said preprocessing is finished up to completion of obtaining said actual image.